

family conflicts, behavioral problems, and physical health issues to mental health issues such as cutting and suicidal ideation. Many are troubled students and at higher grade levels, are students who may drop out of school.

Findings

- Students participating in the SAP use substances other than alcohol, at a rate higher than that of the general school population. SAP students in grades 9-12 use at a higher rate than those in grades 6-8 and boys are more likely to use than girls.
- Each year about 3 out of 10 program students who were using substances at the beginning of the year have quit by the end of the school year. A large proportion of students who were not using substances maintain their abstinence throughout the year.
- Students enter the program with a wide variety of issues troubling them, most commonly relationship issues. Nearly a third of program students report fewer issues after meeting with the counselor than before.
- SAP counselors are utilized as a resource in the school disciplinary policies. Approximately one fifth of boys and one tenth of girls enter the SAP program because of a mandated cause (substance use in school, disciplinary action, etc.).
- Although students in grades 9-12 involved in the SAP are generally more troubled than the total school population, those students drop out of school at a rate of 3.1%, a rate similar to the statewide dropout rate (2.9%) for 9-12 graders.
- Many students entering the program exhibit poor academic performance or behavioral problems, such as high levels of absences, or serving detentions and/or suspensions. For these students, there is notable improvement in grade point average (GPA), particularly for those students coming into the SAP with low GPA's. There are also reductions in levels of absences, detentions and suspensions.